

had secured. The next day, Dec. 1, we went to the dock and to all the hunters we could get track of and captured all the specimens that had not already gotten into the pot. Out of fourteen that we could trace as having been killed, we were fortunate enough to obtain seven in good condition. The oldest hunters here do not remember to have seen any of the kind before. They call them Boobies, the same name they give to the Surf Ducks that are frequently taken here. No other Ducks were seen in the bay when the Eiders appeared. They are in all varieties of immature plumage, none appearing in anything like the breeding condition. The nearest approach to it was one male that showed pearl gray mixed with dark on top of head; he also had a distinct black V-shaped mark on the white throat. The other males had browner heads and fainter black V-shaped throat markings. Of the seven, six are males, and one a female in good typical plumage. I believe that none of this species has been recorded as taken on Lake Erie since 1879, when eighteen were shot at Buffalo, N. Y. (See note by J. A. Allen in Bull. Nutt. Ornith. Club, Vol. V, p. 62.)—GEO. B. SENNETT. *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

The Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis*) in Rhode Island.—Under date of Oct. 14, 1889, Mr. F. T. Jencks writes me: "I saw today at Mr. J. M. Southwick's natural history store in Providence a finely mounted specimen of the Little Brown Crane (*Grus canadensis*) which Mr. Southwick informed me was shot the 8th or 9th of October by Benjamin Burlingame, at Natick Hill, Rhode Island."

I have since learned from Mr. Southwick that the bird belongs to the Superintendent of Public Schools at Natick where it will be preserved in an educational collection. As far as I am aware this species has never previously been reported from any part of New England, although the Whooping and Sandhill Cranes are supposed to have occurred rather numerous in the early colonial days.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Baird's Sandpiper at New Haven, Connecticut.—On October 19, 1889, I took a male *Tringa bairdii* at New Haven, Conn. It was flying high over a sand spit running out into New Haven harbor, in a flock of about twenty other Sandpipers, of what species I am unable to say.

Another specimen of this species, a female in the young plumage, now in the collection of Mr. C. C. Trowbridge, New Haven, was shot at the same locality, Oct. 28, 1887. These make the second and third records* of Baird's Sandpiper for Connecticut.—LEWIS B. WOODRUFF, *New Haven, Conn.*

Callipepla squamata in Northeastern New Mexico.—During the month of October, 1889, I found the Scaled Partridge to be a not uncommon bird at a place called 'Point of Rocks,' about eight miles south of Chico Springs, Colfax Co., New Mexico. They are probably extremely local, as

*For the first record see Averill, Auk, VI, 189.

I could hear of no others outside of that immediate locality. This is, I believe, the most northerly record for the species.—E. C. THURBER, *Alhambra, Cal.*

The Key West Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon martinica*) at Key West.—It is of interest to note the capture of an adult male of this species by Mr. J. W. Atkins at Key West on September 15, 1889. This is the only occasion, in some three years of careful field work, on which the species has been encountered by Mr. Atkins, and I append his notes on the subject.

"I went to the woods at daylight (September 15) to learn if Swainson's Warbler had arrived, and plunging into the lowest and thickest of the wood to look for that species I finally discovered one Swainson's Warbler, a very wild and shy bird. In the pursuit of the bird in question, while wending my way carefully and slowly through the thick underbrush, the Dove (*Geotrygon martinica*) was discovered on the ground about eight paces ahead of me. I secured it with dust shot from my 40 calibre gun. I saw but the one Swainson's Warbler and did not secure it."

Mr. Atkins has kindly sent me the bird, No. 3269 of my register. It is an adult male that has just completed the moult, and is in very fine unworn plumage.—W. E. D. SCOTT, *Tarpon Springs, Fla.*

Buteo brachyurus and B. fuliginosus.—The evidence presented by Mr. Scott in the July (1889) number of 'The Auk' (pp. 243—245), apparently removes all doubt as to these two very dissimilar birds being simply phases of one species, a view of their relationship which has for many years been held by leading European ornithologists,³ but which I could not share, for reasons fully explained by me on pages 209, 210 of Bulletin N. O. C. for October, 1881. Mr. Scott's suggestion, however, that "the bird known as *B. brachyurus* is the female, and that called *B. fuliginosus* the male" is certainly incorrect in that it implies that such is *always* the case; for I have examined males and females of both forms (see the article quoted above). I would add that as each phase is also represented by very young birds, the variation would appear to be a purely *individual* one, as in the cases of the two phases of the Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*) and of several other species of *Buteo*—the difference from the latter being that in the case of *B. brachyurus* the large majority of specimens are either typically one phase or the other, while in other *Buteones* examples of various intermediate character are decidedly the more numerous instead of exceptional.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

New York City Owls.—Strix pratincola. AMERICAN BARN OWL.—On April 13, 1878, Mr. Joseph Wilde brought a fresh specimen to Mr. Edward Conway, taxidermist, of 55 Carmine St., New York City, stating that it was killed "just outside the City."

Nyctala acadica. SAW-WHET OWL.—While walking on the upper part of Manhattan Island, above High Bridge, on the Harlem River, March 13,